above; which were the actual such exer-cises undertaken after 1983-84 and when; and what axe their figures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOP-MENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRI-CULTURE CSHRI JANARDHAN PO-OJARI): (a) and (b) The Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), one of the important poverty alleviation programmes aims at assisting the families belonging to target group in rural areas to cross the poverty line through provision of productive assets, white National Rural Emp loyment Programme (NREP) and Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP) aim at generation of additional wage employment for the un employed and underemployed in the rural areas, Th^{e} purpose of Concurrent Evaluation of these programmes is to And out, during the course of implmentation, whether ihe programmes are going on in the desired direction, whether the beneflts are reaching to targetted groups and whether the guidelines issued by the Centre and States, are being followed in the field in letter and spirit. Similarly other Evaluation Studies, which in fact are, by nature, post implementation studies aim at finding out whether the programmes had the desired impact in the area. such studies do help the Government to take corrective measures wherever necessary. However, no attempt is made through these evaluation studies to estimate he mimber of persons helow the poverty line. Actual nnmber of persons below poverty line is assessed by only National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) from time to time.

The methodology for conducting the Concu-rent Evaluation of IRDP and NREP is based on stratified multi-stage random sampling. Every month about 36 districts in the country are selected ran dornly and from each selected district two blocks are selected on random sampling basis. In the case of IRDP a sample of 10 new and 10 old beneficiaries is selected from each selected block, while in the case of NREP, a sample of 5 completed works and 5 ongoing works is selected ran-domly from each selected block. The field survey is carried out hy reputed independent research organisations.

As regards other evaluation studies, me-thodologies differ from study to study.

Change in statutes ass suggested by Chair-man of the Press Council of lndia

*339. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state;

(a) whether the Pres$_3$ Council of India Chairman has recently suggested some changes in the Statutes for making the Council more effective-

(fe) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what 's Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PARUAMEN-TARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCAS-TING (SHRI H. K L. BHAGAT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Copper crisis in the country

*340. SHRI KRISHNA KUMARl BIRLA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware ot the copper crisis and it$_s$ drastically cut allocation to the consumer mdustrie$_s$ in the country that is seriously affecting theh productoin;

(b) if so, what are the major reasons therefor;

(.<£) what i$_s$ the percentage of decline in the indigenous production of copper during 1986-87 and 1987-88 and comparative rise in its imports during these years to meet the demand; and